



**St Helena Government**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources Division  
**BIOSECURITY**

**Import Health Standard for the  
Importation of  
DOGS AND CATS FROM ASCENSION ISLAND  
into the Island of St Helena**

Issued in pursuance of the Animals (Diseases) Ordinance and Regulations (as amended) CAP 96.

**GUIDE FOR USERS**

The information contained in this import health standard is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of 5 parts.

**Part A. General Information:** contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for the ANRD Dogs and Cats import health standard from Ascension Island and the general responsibilities of every importer of Dogs and Cats.

**PART B. Importation Procedure:** contains sections which outline the requirements to be met prior to and during importation. Whether a licence to import is required to be obtained prior to importation is noted, as are conditions of eligibility, and general conditions relating to documentation accompanying the animals, if necessary.

**PART C: Clearance Procedure:** contains sections describing the requirements to be met at the St Helena Island port in Jamestown and what may happen if the does not meet the requirements of this import health standard.

**PART D: Health Certification:** contains model health certification which must be completed by the appropriate personnel as indicated in the certification. This certification must accompany the animal(s) to St Helena.

## Part A: General Information

### 1. Import Health Standard and Importer's Responsibility

- 1.1 Pursuant to the Animals (Diseases) Ordinance and Regulations (as amended) CAP 96 of the Laws of the Island of St Helena, this is the import health standard for the importation of dogs and cats into St Helena from **Ascension Island**. Provisions for **cat and dog imports arriving on yachts from Ascension** is also covered under this standard..
- 1.2 Obtaining importation clearance for each dog and cat imported into St Helena is dependent upon the animals meeting the requirements of this import health standard.
- 1.3 It is the importer or agent's responsibility to ensure they are compliant with the current version of the Dog and Cat import health standard from Ascension Island at the time of importation into St Helena.
- 1.4 The importer or agent must make all arrangements for transport and obtain necessary transport and obtain necessary transit authorisation from any third countries on the transport route.

### 2. Review of Import Health Standard

- 2.1 The import health standard may be review, amended or revoked if there are changes to policy or legislation on St Helena Island or the animal health status of the originating country, or for any other lawful reason.

### 3. Definition of Terms

#### 3.1 Inspector

Means the Agricultural Authority, a veterinary officer, customs officer, environmental health officer and any other person appointed as such by the Agricultural Authority as defined under Section 2 and 2A of the Animal (Diseases) Ordinance (as amended), in addition to the Collector of Customs or a customs officer appointed by the Collector under Section 4 of the St Helena Customs Ordinance CAP 145.

#### 3.2 ANRD

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Division of ENRD, the Environment and Natural Resources Directorate, St Helena Island.

#### 3.3 Equivalence

Acceptance by the Senior Veterinary Officer (SVO) that the circumstances relating to the importation of a consignment are such that the health status of the consignment is equivalent to the health status of a consignment that complies with the requirements of the import health standard.

#### 3.4 Importation clearance

Animals given importation clearance are free from all restrictions.

#### **4. Equivalence**

- 4.1 It is expected that the dogs and cats permitted to enter St Helena will meet the conditions of this Import Health Standard in every respect. Occasionally it is found that, due to circumstances beyond the importer's control, the animal(s) does/do not comply completely with the requirements. In such cases, an application for equivalence may be considered and issued at the discretion of the SVO, but only if the following information is forwarded by the certifying government's veterinary authorities:

- 4.1.1 Which clause(s) of the import health standard cannot be met and how this has occurred;
- 4.1.2 The reason the animal(s) is/are considered to be of an 'equivalent health status' and/or what proposal is made to return the animal(s) to an equivalent health status as set out in the health conditions, and;
- 4.1.3 The reasons the proposal should be acceptable and the recommendation for its acceptance.

#### **5. Official Point of Contact**

- 5.1 The official point of contact for this Health Standard is:  
Mr Jonathan Hollins, Senior Veterinary Officer  
Address: ANRD, Scotland, Island of St Helena, South Atlantic Ocean, STHL 1ZZ  
Telephone: + (290) 4724  
Fax: + (290) 4603  
Email: [joe-hollins@enrd.gov.sh](mailto:joe-hollins@enrd.gov.sh)

#### **6. Fees and Costs**

- 6.1 All fees and costs involved with documentation, testing, treatment, transport, quarantine, veterinary supervision and obtaining importation clearance shall be borne by the importer or his or her agent.

### **Part B: Importation Procedure**

#### **7. Licence to import**

- 7.1 Subject to Section 3 of the St Helena Animals (Diseases) Regulations a 'licence to import' must be obtained before importation. An application for a licence to import should be made on the model 'Application for Licence to

Import Dogs and Cats' form (available from the officer listed at Section 5) and sent, preferably by fax or email, as detailed under Section 5 above.

- 7.2 The importer must supply the following information on the form:
- 7.2.1 Name and address of the exporter and of the importer;
  - 7.2.2 Name, breed, sex and age of the animal;
  - 7.2.3 Microchip number of the animal;
  - 7.2.4 Signed declaration regarding other conditions to be met as detailed on the form.
- 7.3 Following receipt of the required information, a single entry licence to import shall be issued and will be valid for the voyage required.

## **8. Eligibility**

- 8.1 Eligibility for importation under this import health standard is confined to members of the species domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) and domestic cat (*Felis catus*).
- 8.2 In the absence of St Helena legislation regarding breeds of dogs, the UK Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 will be used to guide ANRD regarding breeds of dogs to enter St Helena. Dogs of the following breeds (including crosses of these breeds) are not eligible for importation:
- American Pit Bull Terrier;
  - Japanese Tosa
  - Dogo Argentino
  - Fila Brasileiro
- 8.3 Animals must not be knowingly pregnant at the date of shipment.
- 8.4 Animals must be more than 24 weeks old at departure.
- 8.5 Animals imported directly from the Island of St Helena into Ascension Island may be re-exported to St Helena with no additional conditions, provided that the animal has resided continuously in Ascension since arrival.
- 8.6 Animals to be imported into St Helena from Ascension which have originated from any other country must satisfy the following additional conditions:
- 8.6.1 **Either** they must be accompanied by a current valid UK DEFRA export health certificate 3921EHC (UK to St Helena), if in transit;
  - 8.6.2 **Or** they must be accompanied by evidence in the form of a copy or an original that they have fully satisfied the requirements of the UK DEFRA export health certificate 7268EHC (UK to Ascension), if initially fully imported into Ascension.

- 8.7 If the accompanying certification and documentation for an animal is judged by the ANRD Agricultural Authority to be unsatisfactory, the animal may, at the discretion of the CANRO and at the expense of the importer, be quarantined on St Helena for up to 9 months.

## **9. Animals Arriving on Yachts - Licence to Import Animals and Licence to Land Animals Ashore for Recreational and Other Purposes**

- 9.1 No licence will be issued by ANRD to import animals to the Island via yachts on the basis that it cannot be fully proved that a yacht has not visited a non-scheduled country (outside of Great Britain, Republic of Ireland) and the animals taken ashore.
- 9.2 No licence or permission will be issued to allow dogs and cats ashore for recreational purposes whilst yachts are anchored in the St Helena port. For the duration of the yacht's visit to St Helena, the presence of the animal on board the yacht will be verified by ANRD in partnership with Port Management Authorities, and at no time shall any other animal be allowed on board the yacht (unless it is a police dog). When a police dog is aboard the yacht, the yacht's animal will have to be muzzled and possibly isolated or caged.
- 9.3 Where an animal might require veterinary treatment from St Helena, the ANRD veterinary staff will visit the yacht to identify if the animal can be treated aboard the yacht or needs to be treated and hospitalised at the Veterinary Clinic. If treatment ashore is required, precautionary measures and the movement and transportation of the animal will be conducted by the ANRD Veterinary Authority, and the treatment area placed under quarantine.
- 9.4 Where treatment ashore is necessary, the master or person in charge of the Yacht will be required to provide the ANRD Veterinary Authority with all necessary health documentation available for the animal and visual assessment of the animal will be undertaken by ANRD veterinary staff for disease or external parasites before proceeding ashore.
- 9.5 In circumstances where a yacht may be required to be lifted ashore for repair work, and an animal is on board, the animal will be required to be housed in the ANRD quarantine for the period the yacht is ashore, at the expense of the animal owner.

## **10. Identification**

- 10.1 Each animal must be identified with a microchip and the identification details must be shown on the accompanying certification. It is recommended that microchip brands adopted by the International Standards Organisation (ISO) are used.

- 10.2 The identity of the animal must be confirmed by reading the microchip each time a treatment or test is performed, and at the time of export certification.

## **11. Transportation to St Helena**

- 11.1 The container/crate housing the animal must be new and thoroughly disinfected prior to its use for transportation.
- 11.2 The container must be free of soil and parasites.
- 11.3 The use of straw or hay as bedding is not permitted. Only sterilised peat, soft board or other inert product may be used.
- 11.4 Written verification may be required from the ship's captain to verify the animal(s) were confined on board for the duration of the voyage and did not have contact with any other animal at each port of call.
- 11.5 Any bedding, toys etc planned to be used in the animal's container from the point of travel should be new.

## **Part C. Importing Clearance Procedure:**

### **12. Clearance**

- 12.1 An inspector from the ANRD Veterinary team will inspect the animals aboard the ship on arrival at the Jamestown port.
- 12.2 Providing that the animals meet the conditions of **Eligibility** and **Part D-Health Certification**, the animals will be given clearance.
- 12.3 Animals that do not meet all requirements of this Import Health Standard may be reshipped, destroyed or quarantined on St Helena at the cost of the importer.

### **13. Quarantine on St Helena**

- 13.1 Quarantine facilities are not routinely provided for pets on St Helena, and only provided in the exceptional circumstances detailed above.
- 13.2 Where quarantine is necessary, each imported dog and cat may be treated for the following:
- 13.2.1 Fleas and ticks;
- 13.2.2 Other parasites such as tapeworm and roundworm.
- 13.2 If an animal shows symptoms of disease within the initial quarantine period whereby ANRD considers a further period of quarantine is necessary, the animal may be treated and/or re-tested as appropriate. If the animal is subsequently considered to be infected with disease it may be further treated, detained in quarantine, or destroyed at the importer's expense. A period of 4

weeks must elapse after the last course of treatment before the animal can be released to the owner, unless determined otherwise by the Senior Veterinary Officer.

- 13.3 The Economic Development Council Committee reserves the right to review the quarantine period or conditions to be completed by an animal.

## **Part D. Health Certification**

### **14. Export Certification**

- 14.1 This export certification applies to any animal that originates from Ascension, or has been landed on Ascension from other countries. It is obligatory in addition to any other certification that may be required as detailed in section 8.6 above.
- 14.2 The following Model Veterinary Health Certificate contains the information required and recognised by ANRD as equivalent to the requirements of Part D. Health Certification, and is approved to accompany imports of dogs and cats into St Helena from Ascension Island when appropriately completed by a representative of Ascension's Veterinary Competent Authority. This original certification must accompany the animal(s) to St Helena.

## Veterinary Health Certificate

**Species:** Dog and Cats  
**To:** St Helena Island  
**Exporting Country:** Ascension Island  
**For Completion By:** The Veterinary Competent Authority, Ascension Island

### I. Identification of Animal(s)

- i. Microchip identification number(s):.....
- ii. Anatomical site of microchip:.....
- iii. Physical description of animal(s): .....
- iv. Name: .....
- v. Breed: .....
- vi. Sex: .....
- vii. Date of Birth: .....
- viii. Total number of animals: .....

### II. Origin of the Animals

- i. Name(s) and address(es) of exporter(s): .....  
.....
- ii. Place(s) of origin of animals: .....
- iii. Port of embarkation:.....
- iv. Date and time of embarkation:.....

### III. Destination of Animals

- i. Name and address of consignee:.....
- ii. Means of transport: .....
- iii. Port of Arrival: .....

### IV. Health Information and Declaration

I, the undersigned, being the Veterinary Competent Authority, certify that with respect to the animal(s) identified in Paragraph I of this certificate that:



- i. I have confirmed the identity of the animal(s) by reading the implanted microchip/transponder, details of which have been given at Paragraph I;
- ii. After due enquiry and physical examination I am satisfied to the best of my knowledge and belief that the animal(s) is/are not pregnant at the time of issuing this certificate;
- iii. In the case of a canine, after due enquiry and physical examination I am satisfied to the best of my knowledge and belief that the animal(s) is/are not (a) purebred or crossbred member(s) of one of the following prohibited types:
  - Pit Bull Terrier
  - Dogo Argentino
  - Japanese Toso
  - Brazilian Fila
- iv. The animal(s) has/have not arrived directly on Ascension Island from any unlisted country without being appropriately quarantined in Ascension for a period of not less than 6 months;
- v. The animal has not arrived on Ascension Island from the UK and Republic of Ireland without having fully satisfied the requirements of **either** UK DEFRA export health certificate 3921EHC (UK to St Helena) **or** UK DEFRA export health certificate 7268EHC (UK to Ascension);
- vi. I have advised the owner that the animal(s) must be placed in a container that is new or disinfected prior to use, with clean or new bedding, and that it must be free of soil, vegetation and parasites;
- vii. The animal(s) was/were treated not more than 72 hours or less than 24 hours prior to checking in and boarding with a broad spectrum anthelmintic effective against nematodes and cestodes, at the manufacturer's recommended dose rate(s);

Date & time of treatment (dd/mm/yy & 24 hour clock): .....

Active ingredient(s): .....

- viii. The animal(s) was/were treated not more than 72 hours or less than 24 hours prior to checking in and boarding with a topical application of fipronil at the manufacturer's recommended dose rate;

Date & time of treatment (dd/mm/yy & 24 hour clock): .....

- ix. The animal(s) was/were inspected within 72 hours of checking in and boarding, and found to be healthy and fit to travel, and free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease;
- x. Ascension Island is free of rabies according to the rules of the World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Name of Competent Authority (in capitals): .....

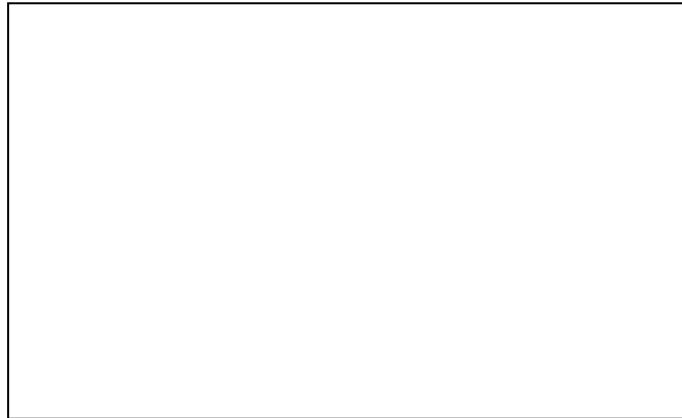
Position: .....

Signature\*:.....

Date and time (dd/mm/yy & 24hr clock):.....

Official Competent

Authority Stamp\*



*\*To be signed and stamped in a different colour to the certificate*

[Note: Testing requirements for Dogs and Cats from the UK & ROI are available from the Agriculture and Natural Resources Division through the contact details included herein].

## Part E: Amendment Record – Import Health Standard for Dogs and Cats from Ascension Island

Amendments to this Standard will be given a consecutive number and will be dated in the body of the table. Brief details of the amended pages will be included.

No.	Details	Date
Para 3	Definition of terms redefined to meet ordinance amendments	May-Jly/13
Para 4	'Equivalence' clarified and requirements stated	May-Jly/13
Para 5	Point of contact updated	May-Jly/13
Para 7	Conditions of licence to import clarified	May-Jly/13
Para 8	Eligibility – expanded to include new DEFRA EHCs (for ASI and StH)	May-Jly/13
Para 9	Addition of extenuating circumstances for landing pets from yachts	May-Jly/13
Para 13	Removal of standard quarantine facilities from StH	May-Jly/13
Para 14	Rewrite of zoosanitary certificate to amalgamate texts, to add declarations (rabies, clean bedding etc), and to edit content so that the EHC for StH to ASI and this EHC for ASI to StH are identical in content, as the islands are considered of equal biosecurity status for this purpose.	May-Jly/13
All	Numerous additional edits/rewordings for clarity and consistency	May-Jly/13